

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the recent telephonic interview of July 16, 2003, in which the Examiner agreed that the above amendments to claims 1, 23, 28 and 37 provide sufficient clarification of the irreversible function term, as previously requested by the Examiner. Accordingly, the above amendments are made for clarification purposes only, do not limit the scope of the claims and are not intended to surrender any range of equivalents. Since claims 1-38 are all now in allowable form, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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